

## Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, March 17, 1840, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, March 17, 1840.

My Dear General, I received your last kind letter as you will have perceived from The Globe. It was so exactly in time to give tone to the 0078 54 Democracy of Pennsylvania in their proceedings against the swindling Biddle Band that I ventured to use it, although I felt it was a liberty I ought not to take. The Pennsylvania Reporter immediately adopted it in capitals and spread it abroad as your letter although I did not mention your name. In two successive papers it has been given in connexion with articles urging the repeal of the Bank and I sincerely hope and believe it will have the effect. If it should, Noah will have more reason than ever to say that you will never cease to control while you live. I think we have got the opposition fairly down at last. Their defeat on the New Jersey case is but a prelude to their perfect disgrace on that and the Pennsylvania Case (Ingersolls). 1 The Judge and inspector have absconded to escape the investigation of their frauds in the Northern Liberties. And in Newark New Jersey they have made way with the Pole Books to avoid the detection of about 200 votes brought over from New York to elect the broad Seal gentlemen. They did not bring over enough by 100 or their whole guilt might have been buried. It will now come out and have a powerful effect on all the elections of this Year in the North.

1 C. J. Ingersoll contested unsuccessfully the seat of Charles Naylor, of Philadelphia. M. M. Noah was a well-known editor of his day and in 1832 was appointed by Jackson surveyor of the port at New York.

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The House is now on the Independent Treasury Bill. It will pass I have no doubt—and just as you would have it—strictly limited all round and with the Specie change. In the Senate they have knocked assumption in the head. 2 Webster who I have no doubt broached it abroad under the orders of the Bank cooperating with the Barings was afraid to come out for it. He was charged with receiving a thousand pounds from the Barings for his written counsel on the subject of the State obligations and this deterred him from advocating the scheme of assumption under their orders put forth in their circular which was issued when he was in England when he probably was consulted about it. I apprehend that this is the beginning of the attempt to put the federal Govt. in the condition of a debtor to the Great European Bankers. Like the money Kings of old, Philip and Alexander, they will pour in their bribes upon our Orators to corrupt the Govt. to their purposes. We shall then have a foreign influence engrafted on our confederacy much more formidable than that brought in by Hamilton. His fundholders were to a great extent among our own people.

2 Many states had made elaborate plans for public improvements and found themselves high and dry after the panic of 1837. The banks had advanced heavily to build works which could not be completed and were in danger of losing all they had put into the enterprises. Under these circumstances there arose a demand that the federal government should assume the obligations for the completion of the works.

But a truce to politics. All looks bright around at present. The Magician 3 by his firmness, ability and honesty justifies your good opinion and I believe will entirely succeed in stamping your principles on the administration for years to come. Major Donelson, has been with us and makes us happy in his account of you. We shall all I trust have the

3 Van Buren was called “the Little Magician”.

class=MsoNormal>0079 55 pleasure of meeting you after this final struggle of the battle you left us to fight. And it shall be my study so to perform my part, as to meet you and expect your smiles. The President looks forward to the next Year as the time when he

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shall have the pleasure of making his pilgrimage to the Hermitage. I still hope after the campaign closes in the fall that I may take a run out and see you. You must take good care of yourself, for victory will lose all its charms if we are not permitted to enjoy it with you. My wife and Daughter send their love to you, to Mrs. Jackson and the children. I greet you with mine

Most affectionately